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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/632,200	08/02/2000	Hiroaki Yada	45010-02634	9100

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EXAMINER

VENT, JAMIE J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2621

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/632,200

Applicant(s)

YADA ET AL.

Examiner

Jamie Vent

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,8-20 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-5, 8-20, 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

On pages 9-14 to applicants arguments that Iso et al in view of Chanier fails to disclose the following limitation "error processing is performed dependent on time duration for error processing" as recited in Claim 1. Chanier discloses in Column 10 Lines 1-54 the relationship of the operations being processed and the dependency on the time duration. The dependency on time allows for proper and efficient operations in various modes in relationship to timed data and thereby meeting the limitations.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Iso et al fails to disclose a error processing that is performed dependent on a time duration. Chanier discloses a relationship of processing operations dependent on time which allows for proper and efficient operations in various modes in relationship to timed data. Although, all of applicants points are understood the examiner can not agree and therefore the rejection is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 14, 15, 16, and 22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iso et al (US 5,612,933) in view of Chainer et al (US 6,075,668).

[claim 1]

In regard to Claim 1, Iso et al discloses a disk drive apparatus containing a plurality of operation modes comprising:

- A first mode having a first data rate and error processing for a first rate reliability independent of time duration for error processing (Column 3 Lines 18-24 describes the first mode wherein a first data rate and error processing is completed);
- A second mode having a second data rate and error processing for the first data reliability independent of time duration for error processing (Column 3 Lines 25-35 describes the second mode having a second data rate and error processing for the data);
- A third mode and fourth mode having a second data rate and error handling (Column 4 Lines 5048 describes the third and fourth mode wherein it is dependent on a time constant switching circuit for determination of speed adjustment of the varying modes)

- Wherein the first data rate is higher than the second data rate and the first data rate uses a higher power and higher disk rotation speed than the second data rate and wherein the first data reliability is higher than the second data (Column 2 Lines 48-59 describe the operation mode wherein the disk speed is slower for proper error handling correction methods and further discussed in Column 4 Lines 23-38); however, fails to specifically disclose that a mode having data rate and error handling for the data reliability dependent of time duration.

Chainer et al discloses an apparatus for placement if timing patterns wherein various operation modes allow for read/writing of data. It is discussed in Column 10 Lines 1-54 the relationship of the operations being processed and the dependency on the time duration. The dependency on time allows for proper and efficient operations in various modes in relationship to timed data.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the disk drive apparatus with various modes, as disclosed by Iso et al, and incorporate a system wherein the operations are dependent on time durations, as disclosed by Chainer et al.

[claim 3]

In regard to Claim 3, Iso et al discloses a disk drive apparatus wherein the error handling method in said first operation mode is:

- an error handling method in the first and fourth operation mode is an error handling method in which an upper limit of an error handling time for recording playback of real0time continuous information is determined (Column 4 Lines 20-26 describes the error handling method wherein an upper limit is set on the amount of retries is going to be completed in the error handling mode).

[claim 4]

In regard to Claim 4, Iso et al discloses a disk drive apparatus wherein in said third and fourth operation mode, when error handling is not completed within the upper limit of said error handling time, the error handling is stopped, and a recording or playback process for data which follows is performed (Column 9 Lines 15-42 describes when the error handling is not completed within the number of retries the error handling is stopped and record/playback is then performed).

[claim 5]

In regard to Claim 5, Iso et al discloses a disk drive apparatus wherein the upper limit of said error-handling time can be set by an attached host (Figure 4 shows the setting of the upper limit to be set by determined speed playback wherein an upper limit is set by chosen recording speed as further described in Column 14 Lines 29-50. Furthermore, it is noted that a user for faster reproduction and playback can set the error-handling time).

[claim 14]

In regard to Claim 14, Iso et al discloses a disk drive apparatus wherein said disk drive apparatus performs postponing control of a head with respect to a disk on the basis of servo information in accordance with a sector servo method of sectors provided radial by partitioning the data-recording surface of the disk (Column 3 Lines 55-67 describes the control of the head with respect to the servo circuit wherein sectors provide information contained in the tracks).

[claim 15]

In regard to Claim 15, Iso et al discloses a disk drive apparatus wherein said disk drive apparatus has a synchronous head position detection construction for generating a servo clock on the basis of said servo information recording area and for detecting head position information while referring to the generated clock (Column 8 Lines 46-55 describe the generating of the

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servo clocked based on the synchronizing signal at the head of each frame which thereby generates and controls the speed of the disk motor).

[claim 16]

In regard to Claim 16, Iso et al discloses a disk drive apparatus wherein said disk drive apparatus comprises: an information compression unit for compressing information, and an information decompression unit for decompressing compressed information; information compressed by said information compression unit is recorded on a disk loaded into said disk drive apparatus, and when compressed information is played back from the disk, a decompression process for decompressing information is performed by said information decompression unit. Figure 1 shows a cd-rom decoder for decompressing the compressed information to be outputted for playback to the CPU. Therefore, it would be inherent to have a complementary encoder for compressing data since an encoder must be present for recording of data.

[claim 22]

Claim 22 contains the limitations as stated in Claims 1 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim.

Claims 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iso et al (US 5,612,933) in view of Chainer et al (US 6,075,668) in further view of Battaglia et al (US 6,658,202).

[claims 8]

In regard to Claim 8, Iso et al in view of Chainer et al discloses a disk drive apparatus wherein said disk drive apparatus wherein the disk drive apparatus operates in an operation mode in which the disk rotation speed is set to be low; however, fails to disclose that the disk drive can be battery driven and a removable disk. Battaglia et al discloses a portable data transfer and

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mass storage device for removable memory modules wherein the disk drive is "hand-held, battery-powered, portable device..." as described in Column 1 Lines 9-11. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the disk drive apparatus with varying rotation speed depending on error correction, as disclosed by Iso et al in view of Chainer et al, and incorporate the disk drive to be portable and battery operated, as disclosed by Battaglia, to allow for a system that has more flexibility between various computer components, such as a computer and a camera, for easier storage and editing of data.

[claim 9]

In regard to Claim 9, Iso et al in view of Chainer et al discloses a disk drive apparatus wherein said disk drive apparatus performs a recording or playback operation onto or from a disk in accordance with a recording or playback command received (Column 2 Lines 31-36 describes the recording or playback operation of the disk in various modes); however, fails to disclose the disk drive to be connected to a host system via a host interface. Battaglia et al discloses the disk drive apparatus that is interfaced with a host interface of a computer as described in Column 2 Lines 30-35). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the of the invention to use the disk drive apparatus which performs recording and playback operation onto or from a disk, as disclosed by Iso et al in view of Chainer et al, and incorporate the disk drive to be interfaced with a host computer, as disclosed by Battaglia et al, to allow for easier portability and connectivity of the host computer and other devices.

[claim 10]

In regard to Claim 10, Iso et al in view of Chainer et al discloses a disk drive apparatus; however fails to disclose that the disk drive contains an operation mode specification is the following commands added in accordance with the ATA (AT-Attachment) standard prepared by

the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) and defined by the PCMCIA (Personal Memory Card International Association / IEIDA (Japan Electronics Industry Development Association). Battaglia et al discloses a portable disk drive apparatus wherein the operation mode is set to accordance with ATA and PCMCIA standards by the ATA and PCMCIA controllers seen in Figure 3 and described in Column 4 Lines 13-26. These standards are used to utilize the control data exchange operations between the devices and the disk drive apparatus. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the disk drive apparatus with varying modes, as disclosed by Iso et al in view of Chainer et al, and incorporate the disk drive apparatus to be of ATA and PCMCIA standards, as disclosed by Battaglia et al, to provide a more efficient data transfer between components.

[claim 11]

Claim 11 contains the limitations as stated in Claim 10 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim.

[claim 12]

Claim 12 contains the limitations of Claim 8 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim.

[claim 13]

Claim 13 contains the limitations as stated in Claim 10 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim.

[claim 19]

In regard to Claim 19, Iso et al in view of Chainer et al discloses a disk drive apparatus; however, fails to disclose that disk drive apparatus has a camera for photographing an image, and the image information obtained by the camera is recorded on a disk loaded in said disk

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drive apparatus. Battaglia et al discloses a portable disk drive apparatus that connects to a camera for photographing purposes as described in Column 1 Lines 45-50. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a disk drive apparatus with varying operation modes, as disclosed by Iso et al in view of Chainer et al, and incorporate a system wherein the disk drive is portable and usable with a camera, as disclosed by Battaglia et al, to allow for an easier process of storage and transfer of data between the computer and the camera.

[claim 20]

Claim 20 contains the limitations as stated in Claims 1 and 8 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim.

[claim 21]

Claim 21 contains the limitations as stated in Claims 1 and 20 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim.

Claims 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iso et al (US 5,612,933).

[claims 17 & 18]

In regard to Claims 17 and 18, Iso et al discloses a disk drive apparatus wherein information compressed by said information compression unit contains moving-image information compressed by MPEG2 (Motion Picture Experts Group Phase 2). It is well known in the art that moving image information to be compressed by the MPEG2 standard as a data file for recording of video data. Therefore, it would be obvious to have compressed moving image information onto the disk when video information is present in the system in order to provide further level of compression for conforming with bandwidth requirements.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

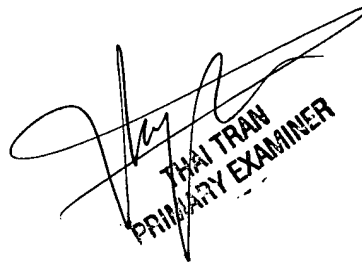
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamie Vent whose telephone number is 571-272-7384. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jamie Vent
05/10/06



THAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER